

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103 (a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Reber (US, 6,138,151) in view of Bhattachariya et al. (US, 6,456,393).

Summary of Response to the Office Action

Applicant respectfully traverses the assertion made by the Office for at least the following reasons.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

An information disclosure statement including the Form 1449 listing seven (7) references were filed on April 12, 2006. However, the Office has not formally acknowledged the IDS of April 12, 2006. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the acknowledgement of this information disclosure statement and respectfully requests that the Office includes the copy of initialed Form 1449 in the next communication. Applicant respectfully submits a copy the date stamped post card as an evidence for the Examiner's reference.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Reber in view of Bhattachariya et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections on grounds that it fails to set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

With respect to independent claim 1, as previously presented, Applicant respectfully asserts that Reber and Bhattachariya et al., whether taken singly or combined, does not teach or suggest at least the features of "the related information is represented by an absolute path or is represented by a relative path with reference positional information." On page 3 of the Action, the Office alleges that Reber discloses "specify related information related to an image element

constituting a document image wherein the related information is represented by an absolute path or is represented by a relative path with reference positional information.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In contrast to the Applicant’s claimed invention Reber teaches that “each printed code uniquely identifies its destination using a code that does not directly encode an electronic address” (Reber, col. 3, line 64 to col. 4, line 12). Thus, the method of Reber requires a visit to the publication 12 using the printed codes first in order to navigate the electronic network to reach the destination (Reber, col. 5, lines 11-24). On the other hand, “absolute path” and “relative path” as disclosed in the Applicant’s claimed invention is a direct electronic address of the destination. Therefore, the method of present invention bypasses the publication and/or removes the need to visit the publication to reach the destination, as required by Reber. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Reber does not disclose at least the features of the related information related to an image element that is represented by an absolute path or is represented by a relative path, as taught in the present invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that the inventions of claims 7, 10 and 18 are distinguished over Reber for reasons similar to those presented above with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that Reber does not teach or suggest at least the features of independent claims 7, 10 and 18. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Bhattacharjya et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Reber. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Office Action has not established a prima facie case of obviousness.

Thus, in light of the arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully requests that rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 13, 2006

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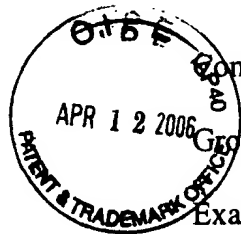
PLEASE STAMP AND RETURN TO SHOW RECEIPT OF:

In re application of:

Hiroyuki SAYUDA

Application No. 09/629,464

Filed: July 31, 2000



Confirmation No.: 5381

Group Art Unit: 2624

Examiner: J. Thompson

For: **IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING
MEDIUM**

Mail Stop Amendment

1. Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).
2. PTO Form 1449 and seven (7) cited references.

Date: April 12, 2006

Attorney Docket No.: 046601-5056

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